



Dorchester Road
Worcester Park
Surrey
KT4 8PG
Tel: 0208 330 1144
Email: office@dorchesterprimary.com

www.dorchesterprimary.com



@dorchesterp



@dorchesterprimary

Achieving Excellence Together in a Caring Community

8 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcoming a new family and their guide dog

We are delighted to welcome Gabriel, who has recently joined our Reception year group, and his parents, Sabeena and Chris, to the Dorchester community.

Sabeena is blind and is assisted by her guide dog, Sherlock. We would be grateful for everyone's help in ensuring that Sabeena and Sherlock can move around the school site safely and confidently.

For the time being, while Sherlock becomes familiar with the school environment and his new routes, please do not approach, stroke, call to or otherwise distract him. This is particularly important when Sabeena is holding Sherlock's short harness handle, as this means he is actively working. Please also help your children to understand that, however lovely and friendly Sherlock may look, he has an important job to do.

When you meet Sabeena, please:

- Speak to Sabeena first and introduce yourself, rather than greeting Sherlock.
- Talk directly to Sabeena, rather than through another adult or through Gabriel.
- Never stroke, feed, call to or give commands to Sherlock without Sabeena's permission.
- Never hold or take hold of Sherlock's lead or harness.
- Allow Sabeena and Sherlock sufficient space to move safely.
- Offer help if you think it may be useful, but wait for Sabeena to accept before assisting.

Guide dogs are trained to take their owners safely to a particular destination. In a busy or closely packed line, Sherlock may guide Sabeena and Gabriel directly towards the classroom entrance rather than recognising the order of a queue. Please do not be concerned or upset if they move ahead of you: this is simply Sherlock doing his job and helping Sabeena reach the correct place safely.

We would also like to remind families that only assistance dogs are permitted on the school site. Other dogs, including family pets, must remain outside the school grounds.

Thank you for helping us to give Gabriel, Sabeena, Chris and Sherlock such a warm and thoughtful welcome. Your understanding will help them to feel safe, comfortable and fully included in our caring school community.

Kind regards,

Cathy Bell
Headteacher